

Message Text

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12

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 T-03 PM-09 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 090742 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2934

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1729

JOINT EMBASSY/ USAID MESSAGE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA

SUBJECT: FEOF CONTRIBUTIONS

REFERENCE: VIENTIANE 1716

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM
PRIMIN TO FRENCH CHARGE D' AFFAIRS DATED FEB 28, 1973
REQUESTING AN INCREASE IN THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO
FEOF.

QUOTE MR. CHARGE D' AFFAIRS,

BY LETTER NO. 90/ DGF/ CO DATED DECEMBER 28, 1973, HIS
EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE REQUESTED IN THE NAME
OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT A MORE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT
BY FRANCE FOR THE MONETARY STABILIZATION PROGRAM OF LAOS
IN THE YEAR 1973.

THIS REQUEST IS DIRECTED AT TWO ASPECTS OF THE CONTRI-
BUTION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO THAT PROGRAM. FIRST
OF ALL IT CONCERNS THE INCREASE OF THAT CONTRIBUTION WHICH
HAS REMAINED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AT THE SAME LEVEL OF 1.7
MILLION US DOLLARS.

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FOLLOWING THE DEVALUATION OF THE US DOLLAR IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, IN TERMS OF THE NEW PARITY OF THE FRENCH FRANC WITH RESPECT TO THE US DOLLAR, TO INCREASE YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND TO BRING IT TO APPROXIMATELY \$2.2 MILLION US DOLLARS.

SECONDLY, MY GOVERNMENT WOULD DESIRE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO ALLOCATE TO THE NATIONAL BUDGET 50 PERCENT OF THE COUNTER-PART FUNDS FROM YOUR CONTRIBUTION. THIS CONSTITUTES, WE REALIZE, A NEW PRINCIPLE WHICH MUST BE INTRODUCED INTO THE AGREEMENT WHICH WE ARE SOON TO SIGN. HOWEVER THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH APPEAR TO PREVAIL AT THE PRESENT TIME IN OUR COUNTRY PERMIT US TO BELIEVE THAT THE YEAR 1973 WILL INAUGURATE A NEW ERA, AN ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT CONCEPTION OF FEOF MIGHT LIKEWISE CHANGE TO ADAPT ITSELF TO THIS NEW SITUATION.

I THEREFORE HAVE THE HONOR TO ASK YOU, MR. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, TO KINDLY TRANSMIT TO YOUR GOVERNMENT OUR PROPOSALS TO WHICH YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

I TAKE THIS OCCASION TO RENEW TO YOU, MR. CHARGE D'AFFAIRS, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

2. OUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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